MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC NEWS

February 2024 – The February MNS meeting will be held at our traditional location and time, Thursday, February 15, at 6 PM in the Mayfair Mall Community Room. Members are welcome to bring show and tell items, and we hope to do officer induction.

President:	Justin Perrault	**Vice President:**	Jim Heinrich
Secretary:	James Kubley	**Treasurer:**	Chris Kantak
Sgt. at Arms:	Dave Herrewig	**Trustee '22-'24:**	Jordan Heller
Trustee '23-'25:	Dave Hunsicker	**Trustee '24-'26:**	Gary Bieringer
Librarian:	Justin Perrault	**Newsletter editor:**	Leon Saryan

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The Milwaukee Numismatic Society, founded in 1934, is the oldest and largest organization in Milwaukee devoted to the study of money. Meetings are now held from 6 to 8 PM in the Mayfair Mall community room on the third Thursday of each month.

February "Coin" of the Month: **For February, we offer a 2019-S US Mint 10-piece proof set with cent, nickel, dime, half and dollar coins, plus 5 quarters, all in original mint packaging. All coins are in flawless condition. Starting price for this beautiful set is only $25.**

February 2024 MNS President's Message

Summer will be here before we know it, and with that I am already thinking about the ANA show in Rosemont and a very small club outing to the Higgins National Banknote Museum in Iowa. For the trip to Iowa, as briefly discussed at the last meeting, it would be limited to a group of six members. This would be an overnight trip, leaving very early (i.e. 3AM) on Friday morning of August 16th, and returning late in the day on Saturday, August 17th. A $50 security deposit would be required, in addition to partial expenses incurred for lodging. Some of the travel expenses would be underwritten by the club, including vehicle rental. We can discuss more at the next meeting, but I will need to get a list of names nailed down soon so that I can begin making lodging reservations. Okoboji is a big tourist draw during the summer, so things tend to book up fast.

The Boy Scout Coin Collecting clinic and South Shore Coin Club show date is finally on the calendar. Location is the same venue where our shows have been held the past few years, the Sheraton in Brookfield. More details on the clinic will be discussed at the next meeting, so please stay tuned and consider volunteering to make this event success at the new location.

For this year we received one application for partial scholarship to the ANA Summer Seminar. This was submitted by John B. and the Board approved the application. We look forward to hearing about the courses John took and what he all learned.

Application for new membership has been submitted by Robert Flath of Milwaukee. He sponsored by Chris Kan. We will vote on this at the next meeting. We will also hopefully be able to make it official and swear in the club officers elected back in December. Turn-out at the January meeting was pretty light, so hopefully February will be better.

A Sergeant-at-Arms is still needed to fill that vacant position. Please help your club by assisting with this very easy task. Let me know if you are interested or have any questions, and I would be happy to guide you along.

Happy Collecting,
Justin J. Perrault
masters1122@yahoo.com 262.613.9996

38 mm bronze Statue of Liberty medal. Dated 1787 (the year the Constitution was written) and 1987 (Constitution bicentennial.) The statue itself, a gift from France, was inaugurated in in 1886.

MN$ 2023

Schedule

Monthly meetings for the calendar year will proceed as scheduled. Our meetings will continue to run from 6:00-8:00 PM on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Room in the lower level of Mayfair Mall. Visitors interested in numismatics are welcome.

Monthly meeting programs

Jan 18:	New Officer Inductions
Feb 15:	Open
March 21:	Show & Tell-Non Numismatic
April 18:	Open
May 16:	Spring Auction
June 20:	Coin Talk with Andy Kimmel
July 18:	Open
Aug 15:	Open
Sept 19:	Numismatic Trivia Game
Oct 17:	Autumn Auction / MNS 90th Anniversary Party
Nov 21:	Raffle Prize Drawing
Dec 19:	Christmas Party/Bingo/Elections

Annual Dues

Dues for 2024 are $10. Please pay Treasurer Chris K. at the next meeting, or they can be mailed to **MNS, PO Box 26886, Wauwatosa, WI 53226-0886.** Thanks to those who have paid. Those who have not paid will be removed from the club's mailing list.

Random Information

MNS is a volunteer organization. We always need new and interesting programs, activities, and helpers to work at events. MNS will also reimburse refreshment expenses up to $60. To volunteer, please contact Pres. Justin Perrault at 262.613.9996 or VP Jim Heinrich at 262.796.1814. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up by volunteering their time and talent to make the club a success.

2024 Numismatic Events

Feb 18:	Oshkosh Coin Show Oshkosh Convention Ctr. 2 N. Main St, 9 AM-4 PM
Feb 25	Madison CC show, Madison Marriott West, 9 AM-3 PM
March 10:	Waukesha Coin Show New Berlin Ale House, 9 AM-4 PM
March 24:	Appleton Coin Show Hilton Paper Valley Hotel 333 W. College Ave, 9-4 PM
April 21-27:	National Coin Week 100th Anniversary
April 21:	SSCC Coin Show & Scout Clinic Sheraton Hotel Brookfield 9-4PM
April 21:	Wisconsin Valley CC Show Holiday Inn Rothschild 1000 Imperial Ave, 9-4 PM
May 1-4:	Central States Coin Show Schaumburg, IL
Aug 6-10:	ANA World's Fair of Money Rosemont, IL
Aug. 16-17:	Club Trip to Higgins Museum of National Bank Notes? (Okoboji, IA)
Nov. 10:	MNS/NOW Coin Show 9-4 PM Sheraton Hotel Brookfield

Refreshment Schedule

Jan 18:	Open
Feb 15:	John B.
March 21:	Open
April 18:	Open
May 16:	Open
June 20:	Open
July 18:	Open
Aug 15:	Open
Sept 19:	Open
Oct 17:	Open
Nov 21:	Open
Dec 19:	Christmas Party

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

Minutes

January 18, 2024

President Justin Perreault called the 1045th meeting of the MNS to order at 6:05pm. There were 12 members & 1 guest in attendance. The president led the club in the pledge of allegiance. Door prizes were won by Russ K, Scott J, Gary B, Dave H, and Steve J.

Coin of the Month: Steve J. won the coin of the month, 1991 US Silver Eagle MS69, with a winning bid of $53.00.

Minutes: The minutes for December 2024 were approved. However, there was one change. Jordan Heller and Dave Hunsicker were not up for reelection. The Sergeant-at-Arms position is open and a volunteer would be welcome..

Treasurer's Report: Chris K. reported that December showed net receipts of $110.00, Vanguard transfer, interest earned transfer, and $2,567.55 in net disbursements for a net cash flow of -$1,523.82. The club also received an update regarding our Coin Show.

Vice President Report: We have plenty opening for refreshments and programs in 2024.

MNS Coin Show: Flyers will be made within the coming months for our 2024 show.

New Member Application: The club received an application for Robert Flath. He's collected American coins since he was a child. Robert is sponsored by Chris Kan.

Fantasy Numismatics: The club recognized the top 3 winners of 2023 Numismatics. Congrats to Paul K, Dave Her, and John B. Please return your Fantasy 2024 Numismatics entry forms to Leon S by the end of March. No charge to participate and you could win a silver coin prize.

Show and Tell: Justin P – Misc Items / Bruce B – Mark Antony & Octavian Denarius / Dave H – Michigan Numismatics Exhibit Awards / Chris K – King/Queen 2023 and 2024 American Eagle.

The meeting was informally adjourned at 7:25 pm by President Perrault.

Respectfully submitted by James Kubley

Editorial

In this month's issue we feature articles by or about current or former members: Dave Hunsicker, who tells about his experiences at the ANA Summer Seminar (aka Coin Camp) last year, an article from* Numismatic News *in 1995 about long-time members John and Nancy Wilson (now living in Florida), and mementoes from the passing of former member Gale Highsmith, including his obituary in the* Milwaukee Journal *from 1993.

Civil War Numismatics: My Adventures at the 2023 ANA Summer Seminar

By Dave Hunsicker

I am appreciative of the Milwaukee Numismatic Society for awarding me a scholarship to the 54th ANA Summer Seminar held last summer in Colorado Springs, The course I wanted to take, Civil War Numismatics, was already filled. When I was at the Central States show earlier in the spring, I asked at the ANA table if there was a possibility of getting into that class, otherwise I would rather not go. A call went to ANA headquarters and the next day I was informed that I could get in. It may have helped that the instructor for the course happened to be sitting at the American Numismatic Society table next to the ANA.

I flew out of Milwaukee on Saturday to Colorado Springs. Upon arrival, I was greeted by an ANA representative at the airport and was bused to Colorado College for check-in, where a light lunch was available. The opening program that evening provided details of how the seminar would run. Class assignments were given and the instructors were introduced, after which we adjourned to our accommodations. My room was in the college dorms with a military style hard bed, no air conditioning (it was hot the entire week), and a rest room located down the hall.

Civil War Numismatics was taught by American Numismatic Society instructor Jesse Kraft, Ph.D., Resolute Americana Curator of American Numismatics. Kraft began by summarizing the lead-up to the Civil War, especially financial problems in the 1830s (when banks were running out of money) culminating in the Panic of 1837. Tokens filled the gap. The Coinage Act of 1853 increased the circulation of small change ending the US silver shortage crisis. The three-cent silver and the three-dollar gold coins were introduced in the early 1850s. In 1857 the half cent and the large copper cent were discontinued; large cents could be traded in for the new smaller copper cents. There was a discussion of slavery and some original slave tags were shown.

The Civil War lasted just over four years, from April 12, 1861 to May 26, 1865. The course that I took did not feature specific patriotic or store card tokens. Nevertheless, every day we were able to view many samples of tokens and medals of the time from the ANA collection. The course offered a great historical review of the era. Men were allowed to buy substitutes to avoid the July 1862 military draft. 120,000 people fled to Canada and 280,000 deserted. On the Confederate side, one million served and 10% of these deserted. Discussion topics included the Union blockade of southern ports, the importance of railroads, and the creation of the IRS. Demand notes of 1861 and the Legal Tender notes of 1862 were covered. On the last day of the class, we visited the ANA Museum to view notes from the famous Aubrey and Adeline Bebee collection. The notes were in crisp condition and some were in uncut sheets. (Note: The demand notes were signed by 70 women as "for the" Treasurer of the United States.)

Besides the in-depth courses taught at the seminar, it is a great opportunity to meet many fellow numismatists. You'll get to know many people from around the country and overseas. Ken Bressett, a Wisconsin icon, is active as ever visiting all the classes. The Young Numismatist auction, which raises funds to support YN scholarships, is also a fun event. There is a place called the Lunar Lounge where students gather to talk coins and some tend to "tip" a few. The ANA Summer Seminar is the place to go to be educated in numismatics.

I encourage MNS members to take advantage of our club's Summer Seminar scholarship. ###

John Wilson turned from amateur to expert

Over 25 years of involvement, service and dedication spring from enthusiasm, love of numismatics

John and Nancy Wilson pose at the ANA Convention held in Atlanta in February.

By Kimberly Pichler

John Wilson has his brother-in-law to thank for what has become a long and distinguished numismatic hobby career.

Wilson and the then Nancy Opitz, "a die-hard collector for many years, since she was a little girl," were married in 1968. Nancy's brother Chuck was a collector, and she had followed suit. Chuck is now president of the Primitive Money Society and has written a book on odd and curious money.

At the time of their marriage, Wilson was a novice in the field. He had attended a show or two with Nancy in the late 1960s, and even had some world paper currency from his stint in Vietnam. He was, however, neither a regular show-goer, nor a collector.

WHO'S WHO IN THE HOBBY

In the early 1970s, though, Wilson did become interested in collecting. He attended the Central States Numismatic Society convention in 1972, which was held in Milwaukee. By that time he had been going to coin club meetings with Nancy, and he even helped out a bit with the show: as a Milwaukee County deputy sheriff. He saved CSNS some money by serving as an overnight security guard.

By 1973, Wilson's interest in numismatics was cemented. He began traveling to Midwest coin shows and "really looking at stuff . . . I became enthused," he said. Paper money immediately caught his attention, especially large-size notes dated 1861-1923.

"I was attracted to the beauty, the history, the romance, the vignettes," he explained. Soon Wilson began receiving paper money publications and "staying up until ungodly hours of the night reading *Bank Note Reporter* from cover to cover."

At this point, Wilson moved into acquisitions. He began putting together a collection piece by piece. Mail orders supplied his initial purchases, as he utilized paper money dealer lists and auction catalogs to determine which pieces he wanted.

By 1977, Wilson was a member of the Milwaukee Numismatic Society and the younger, smaller South Shore Coin Club. The latter was at that time hosting one-day conventions.

At the 1977 CSNS show, which was held in Milwaukee and hosted by both local clubs, a group of obsolete State of Florida notes from the collection of Harley Freeman caught his eye. Nancy already had a type set of National Bank Notes in $1 to $10 denominations. It did not contain all rarities, but it was a complete set.

Wilson's new-found interest in obsolete notes was heightened at the 1979 American Numismatic Association Show, which was held in St. Louis. He fell in love with obsolete notes issued primarily between 1810-1830 but also through the 1840s, 1850s and even 1860s.

"These notes were issued by *everyone*," said Wilson, "by merchants, municipalities, states and counties." He became especially interested in notes from

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Wilson/from Page 16

Wisconsin and wanted to accumulate a denomination set of scrip notes.

Obsolete notes dovetailed his interests with Nancy's specialty collecting. Their shared interests would eventually expand to include Fractional Currency and other numismatic avenues.

For example, the couple loves to exhibit. Nancy had been competing in local shows and winning awards for years. In 1979, they together exhibited a U.S. Postage and Fractional Currency type set. They had begun acquiring specimen notes, which were issued at a great rate between 1861 and 1875 in at attempt to prevent counterfeiting, he said.

Wilson estimates that his wife and he have created approximately 50 exhibits over the years. Considering that each one requires about 25 hours to put together, that's no small task!

Right now the Wilsons are putting together a new display concentrating on $3 notes issued by various states during the 1930s. They are also planning to exhibit $2 notes portraying battleships, dated 1900-1915, at the Memphis Paper Money Show. In the future, Wilson would like to show his collection of German porcelain coins and medals.

Wilson has been involved with many numismatic organizations over the years. After serving several terms on the board of CSNS, he currently holds the office of vice president. He hopes to serve as president before stepping down.

"We always need new blood," he said in reference to why he'll eventually step down. "An organization shouldn't be run by the same core group of people all of the time."

Additional offices Wilson has held in the past include trustee, vice president and president of the MNS and president of the South Shore Coin Club. He has been heavily involved with National Coin Week in the greater Milwaukee area since in the mid-1980s, setting up and manning displays in banks, museums, libraries, etc.

Another of Wilson's pet projects is the Boy Scout Merit Badge Collection Clinic sponsored by the MNS. He handles the paper money portion of the clinic. The program has certified over 1,000 kids in the past dozen or so years, and its format has been adopted by the American Numismatic Association for a similar program targeting both Boy and Girl Scouts.

"Anyone can be a joiner. What we need is *involvement*."

Wilson has been very active in the show circuit around the Milwaukee area. He served as assistant general chairman of the 1986 ANA convention held in Milwaukee. The 1990 CSNS was also held in Milwaukee, and this time Wilson was general chairman.

"That was an excellent show," Wilson recalled. "We had a 20-dealer waiting list."

Another project of pride was the 1991 American Numismatic Association Centennial Convention in Chicago, of which Wilson was again general chairman.

"Over 22,000 people attended that show, and it drew ANA members from around the world," he said. "We had many never-to-be-seen-again collections on display, collections which have since been sold. Offerings included tokens, medals, elongates, paper money, souvenir cards . . . we also had a miracle Mint Mile"

This year, the CSNS will again be held in Milwaukee, and Wilson is assistant general chairman. He's done "lots of paperwork, handled everything you see in print: programs, education, coordination, advertising, the bourse application."

He expects a good showing at this year's convention, sponsored by the MNS, South Shore Coin Club and Numismatists of Wisconsin.

"Many individuals are triple members of these organizations, and have worked hard" to ensure a successful show, Wilson said.

In addition to the organizations mentioned above, Wilson is proud to be a both a life member and board member of the Society of Paper Money Collectors. He is also an out-of-state board member of the Paper Money Collectors of Michigan.

Both Nancy and he are involved with the Fractional Currency Collector's Board. Its membership has nearly doubled, due largely to the Wilsons' efforts. The couple also speak to civic groups and teach courses or present programs whenever possible. Wilson loves to write for numismatic publications, as well as contribute to state and regional organizations.

Wilson has earned many honors during his years as a collector. He received the *Numismatic News* Numismatic Ambassador Award at the 1990 CSNS. He has received two literary awards, one from *The Centinel*, the CSNS journal, and one for best article in *FUN Topics*, magazine of the Florida United Numismatists. He also was presented with an ANA Glenn Smedley Medal of Merit.

Wilson's involvement with over 34 numismatic organizations springs from his love of the hobby and desire to see it grow. He sees drawing young people into the hobby as a challenge.

"It's imperative to get kids interested while they're still in the parental house," said John. "We've also got to get the average collector age down from where it stands now, at 52 or 54. I'd like to see it break 50."

Another challenge is encouraging greater participation of club members at all levels.

"Anyone can be a joiner. What we need is *involvement*," he explained. Collectors need to "get involved at the grass-roots level" and carry on from there.

Thirdly, Wilson said, more clubs need to join the ANA. There are numerous benefits of membership, many of which can be a valuable educational resources. He cited show information and the Young Numismatist program as examples of how the ANA can help local clubs.

Having retired from the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department in July of 1994, Wilson plans to continue devoting time to the hobby and to pursuing "numismatic treasures," as he called them. He would like to someday write a book with his friend Tom Casper on the the tokens of Milwaukee and other local exonumia.

Wilson mentioned that a problem he often runs into with his extensive numismatic involvement is not ever being able to catch up.

"I have to learn a little moderation," he admitted. In the next breath, however, he said that he's recently begun collecting casino chips.

Hobby moderation will perhaps never be realized by Wilson. Dedication, however, certainly already has been.

God hath not promised
Skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways
All our lives through;
God hath not promised
Sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
Peace without pain.

But God hath promised
Strength for the day,
Rest for the labor,
Light for the way.
Grace for the trials,
Help from above,
Unfailing sympathy
Undying love . . .

GALE V. HIGHSMITH

BORN: FEBRUARY 4, 1911
Mt. Vernon, Illinois

DIED: JANUARY 29, 1993
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Age: 81 years, 11 months, 25 days

†

— SERVICES —
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1993
7:30 P.M. at
THE PRASSER-KLECZKA FUNERAL HOME
BAY VIEW CHAPEL

The Reverend
KENNETH E. STRECKER
Officiating

†

— Interment —
HIGHLAND MEMORIAL PARK
14875 W. Greenfield Avenue
Tuesday, 11:30 A.M.

Retired Engineer for the Falk Company, Past President of the Wisconsin Archaeological Society, Past President and Honorary Life Member of Milwaukee Numismatic Society.

JKEE JOURNAL * **Monday** February 1, 1993

DEATHS

Gale Highsmith
Author, collector

Funeral services will be held tonight for Gale V. Highsmith, whose restless intellect wandered for many years over the fields of archeology, numismatics and astronomy.

Highsmith, of Milwaukee, died Friday at St. Francis Hospital. He was 81. The cause of death was not immediately known, according to his daughter, Darlene Anderson of Milwaukee.

Highsmith was at work on a second book cataloging Indian artifacts he had collected over decades, Anderson said. "The Fluted Axe," a detailed text on the same subject, was published in 1985 after more than 25 years of artifact collection, research, writing and photography, she said.

Highsmith's painstaking attention to detail in collection marked all of his life's pursuits, Anderson said.

"He was very interested in so many aspects of life," Anderson said. "He was a very intelligent man who would have been dissatisfied to delve into just one area."

Highsmith had been an engineer for the Falk Corp. Long before he retired, however, he made a name for himself in seemingly unrelated areas.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, at the height of the race for outer space between the United States and the Soviet Union, Highsmith used mathematical calculations to track satellites for the Milwaukee Astronomical Society and the Smithsonian Institution.

For most of his life, Highsmith was one of the foremost coin collectors in Wisconsin and the past president of the Milwaukee Numismatic Society. Twice in the 1970s Highsmith shot and wounded burglars who broke into his home, presumably looking for Highsmith's much-publicized, rare and valuable coins.

Indian artifacts came to dominate his interest in his later years, his daughter said. Highsmith is a past president of the Wisconsin Archeological Society.

Survivors besides his daughter include three sisters, Coral Highsmith of Arizona, Dorthea Littrell of Colorado and Helen Turgeon of California.

Visitation was scheduled for 4:30 to 7:30 tonight at Prasser-Kleczka Bay View Chapel, 3275 S. Howell Ave. A service will follow at the funeral home. Burial will be 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at Highland Memorial Park Cemetery, 14875 W. Greenfield Ave., New Berlin.